

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Original) An image processing method for generating a single image group file from a plurality of still images, comprising:
 - setting an output sequence of the plurality of still images; and
 - adding data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence, to a header portion of the file.

2. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
 - generating compressed coded data of the plurality of still images,
 - wherein adding the data comprises:
 - setting thumbnail information of each of the still images in one or a plurality of formats; and
 - adding the thumbnail information with the set format in the header portion when forming the coded data of each of the still images.

3. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the setting the output sequence sets the output sequence with respect to still images having same picture taking conditions, of the plurality of still images.

4. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the setting the output sequence sets a display interval of each of the still images together with the output sequence that is set as a display sequence.

5. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the thumbnail information includes resolution information of the still images.

6. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the resolution information includes decomposition level information of the still images.

7. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the thumbnail information includes position information of the still images.

8. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the position information includes at least one of tile information, precinct information, code block information and pixel position information.

9. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the thumbnail information includes component information of the still images.

10. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the thumbnail information includes picture quality information of the still images.

11. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the picture quality information includes layer information and/or bit-plane information.

12. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the thumbnail information includes sub-band information of the still images.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus for generating a single image group file from a plurality of still images, comprising:

an image sequence setting unit to set an output sequence of the plurality of still images; and

a data adding unit to add data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence, to a header portion of the file.

14. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

an image compression unit to generate compressed coded data of the plurality of still images,

the data adding unit comprising

a thumbnail setting unit to set thumbnail information of each of the still images in one or a plurality of formats; and

a thumbnail information adding unit to add the thumbnail information with the set format in the header portion when forming the coded data of each of the still images.

15. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the image sequence setting unit sets the output sequence with respect to still images having same picture taking conditions, of the plurality of still images.

16. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the image sequence setting unit sets a display interval of each of the still images together with the output sequence that is set as a display sequence.

17. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the thumbnail information includes resolution information of the still images.

18. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the resolution information includes decomposition level information of the still images.

19. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the thumbnail information includes position information of the still images.

20. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the position information includes at least one of tile information, precinct information, code block information and pixel position information.

21. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the thumbnail information includes component information of the still images.

22. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the thumbnail information includes picture quality information of the still images.

23. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the picture quality information includes layer information and/or bit-plane information.

24. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the thumbnail information includes sub-band information of the still images.

25. - 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) An image output method comprising:
obtaining a single image group file from a plurality of still images, comprising
setting an output sequence of the plurality of still images, and adding data indicating a

storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence to a header portion of the file; and

outputting the plurality of still images of the file according to the output sequence.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) An image output apparatus comprising:

an obtaining unit to obtain a single image group file from a plurality of still images, where the obtaining unit comprises a unit to set an output sequence of the plurality of still images, and a unit to add data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence to a header portion of the file; and

an output unit to output the plurality of still images of the file according to the output sequence.

31. (Original) An image conversion method comprising:

obtaining a single image group file from a plurality of still images, wherein obtaining the single image group file comprises setting an output sequence of the plurality of still images, and adding data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence to a header portion of the file; and

subjecting the file to an inverse conversion so that the file is converted into the plurality of still images and one file is formed by each of the plurality of converted still images.

32. (Original) An image conversion apparatus comprising:

an obtaining unit to obtain a single image group file from a plurality of still images, wherein the obtaining unit comprises a unit to set an output sequence of the plurality of still images, and a unit to add data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence to a header portion of the file; and

a conversion unit to subject the file to an inverse conversion so that the file is converted into the plurality of still images and one file is formed by each of the plurality of converted still images.

33. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer cause the computer to generate a single image group file from a plurality of still images by:

setting an output sequence of the plurality of still images; and

adding data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence, to a header portion of the file.

34.- 35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) An article of manufacture having one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

obtain a single image group file from a plurality of still images, comprising causing the computer to set an output sequence of the plurality of still images, and add data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence to a header portion of the file; and

output the plurality of still images of the file according to the output sequence.

37. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to convert a file by:

obtaining a single image group file from a plurality of still images, wherein obtaining the single image group file comprises causing the computer to set an output sequence of the plurality of still images, and add data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence to a header portion of the file; and

subjecting the file to an inverse conversion so that the file is converted into the plurality of still images and one file is formed by each of the plurality of converted still images.

38. (Original) An image processing method for generating a single dynamic image file from a plurality of still images, comprising:

setting a reproducing sequence of the plurality of still images; and

adding data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence, to a header portion of the file.

39. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein setting the reproducing sequence sets a still image that is to be used as a thumbnail of a dynamic image from the plurality of still images as dynamic image thumbnail information, and where adding the data adds the dynamic image thumbnail information to the header portion of the file.

40. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising:

generating compressed coded data of the plurality of still images,

where adding the data comprises:

setting thumbnail information of each of the still images in one or a plurality of formats; and

adding the thumbnail information with the set format in the header portion when forming the coded data of each of the still images.

41. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the thumbnail information includes decomposition level information of the still images.

42. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the resolution information includes a decomposition level information of the still images.

43. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the thumbnail information includes position information of the still images.

44. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 43, wherein the position information includes at least one of tile information, precinct information, code block information and pixel position information.

45. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the thumbnail information includes component information of the still images.

46. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the thumbnail information includes picture quality information of the still images.

47. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the picture quality information includes layer information and/or bit-plane information.

48. (Original) The image processing method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the thumbnail information includes sub-band information of the still images.

49. (Original) An image processing apparatus for generating a single dynamic image file from a plurality of still images, comprising:

an image sequence setting unit to set a reproducing sequence of the plurality of still images; and

a data adding unit to add data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence, to a header portion of the file.

50. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the image sequence setting unit sets a still image that is to be used as a thumbnail of a dynamic image from the plurality of still images as dynamic image thumbnail information, and the data adding unit adds the dynamic image thumbnail information to the header portion of the file.

51. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 49, further comprising:

an image compression unit to generate compressed coded data of the plurality of still images,

wherein the data adding unit comprises:

a thumbnail setting unit to set thumbnail information of each of the still images in one or a plurality of formats; and

a thumbnail information adding unit to add the thumbnail information with the set format in the header portion when forming the coded data of each of the still images.

52. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the thumbnail information includes decomposition level information of the still images.

53. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein the resolution information includes a decomposition level information of the still images.

54. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the thumbnail information includes position information of the still images.

55. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 54, wherein the position information includes at least one of tile information, precinct information, code block information and pixel position information.

56. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the thumbnail information includes component information of the still images.

57. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the thumbnail information includes picture quality information of the still images.

58. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 57, wherein the picture quality information includes layer information and/or bit-plane information.

59. (Original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein the thumbnail information includes sub-band information of the still images.

60. – 67. (Cancelled)

68. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to generate a single dynamic image file from a plurality of still images:

setting a reproducing sequence of the plurality of still images; and

adding data indicating a storage location of each of the still images according to the set output sequence, to a header portion of the file.

69. - 72. (Cancelled)